

RICH MAN WIPES AWAY HIS FAMILY

Evidence Indicates that Iowa
Farmer Murders Wife
and Children.

THEN SETS HOME ON FIRE

Afterward Jumping Into the Flames to
End His Own Existence—
Worth \$100,000.

Dubuque, Iowa, Aug. 22.—That a quadruple murder and suicide were committed at the home of Henry Sternweis in Jefferson township at an early hour Thursday morning is the opinion of the hundreds of persons who visited the place Thursday, in the number being included Coroner Voelker, County Clerk Harrington and newspaper men.

The dead are as follows:
HENRY STERNWEIS, 50 years old.
MRS. HENRY STERNWEIS, his wife, 45 years old.
ARTHUR, aged 9.
INA, aged 5.
SALENA, aged 8 months.

It is believed that Mr. Sternweis murdered his wife and three children, set fire to the residence and other buildings on the farm and then committed suicide by hanging in the barn. The fire at the Sternweis place was first discovered by neighboring farmers about 3:30, Thursday morning. They hurried to the place and found the residence, barns, corn cribs, etc., practically destroyed at that time. There was no evidence of the members of the family about, so it was presumed from the very start that a tragedy had been enacted.

Soon after his arrival on the scene of the tragedy, Coroner Voelker went to the smoldering ruins of the barn. There he found on top of the frame work of a hay loader, the remains of what is believed to be the body of the head of the household, Henry Sternweis.

The four bodies were placed on the lawn and covered while scores of neighbors crowded around. Later the remains were brought to the undertaking parlors of Mr. Voelker in the city where they will be held, pending investigation by physicians, the inquest and burial.

Henry Sternweis was one of the most prominent farmers of Jefferson township, living on his 400-acre farm five miles west of Sherrills, two miles south of Balltown and fifteen miles west of Dubuque. He was born on that farm and inherited it from his father, who was one of the pioneers of the county.

In his childhood Mr. Sternweis had scarlet fever and as a result of that disease lost his hearing so for the past forty or more years he had been deaf, though he had been one of the most prosperous farmers in that part of the county.

About ten years ago he was married to Miss Henrietta Boehme, also well known in Dubuque. For a few years their married life is said to have been ideal, but during the later years it is reported by neighbors that they had frequent wrangles, that the home life was far from a happy one.

A MYSTERIOUS LETTER.

A letter had been mailed to Mr. Klein. A second envelope was inside and with it a note asking him, Klein, to deliver it "personally" to Mr. Sternweis. The letter is presumed to have come from the sister who is alleged to have caused the trouble between the husband and wife, but what it contained is not known and probably never will be known unless the sister who wrote it tells its contents.

It is the belief of Mr. Klein and others of the farmers in the neighborhood that something contained in the letter in question prompted the tragedy which has appalled the whole northern part of the county.

Mr. Sternweis is survived by four

sisters, as nearly as could be learned from neighbors who were on the scene of the tragedy, Thursday morning. They are as follows: Mrs. Caroline Gester, Monleth, Wis.; Mrs. Mary Hiltner, Monleth, Wis.; Mrs. August Boehme, Waterloo, Iowa; and Mrs. Fred Hammerand of Dubuque. A

brother committed suicide some years ago.

BODIES UNRECOGNIZABLE.

The three bodies recovered in the northwest corner of the basement of the residence, under that portion of the structure where the members of the family had their sleeping quarters, are believed to be those of Mrs. Sternweis, the 9 year old son and the babe. The bodies were burned into almost unrecognizable masses. The limbs and heads were entirely gone and all that remained to assist in identification were the charred trunks and the bones. It seemed almost positive that the larger of the bodies was that of the mother. It seemed almost certain that the smaller body was that of the babe and that the other was that of the boy.

The body believed to be that of Mr. Sternweis was found in what had been the basement of the barn, 100 feet or more removed from the residence, in a northeasterly direction. It was found on top of the iron work of what had been a hay loader and which had evidently been stored on the second floor of the barn, which was a "bank" affair. This had led to the belief that Mr. Sternweis committed suicide by hanging and that after the fire burned the rope with which he hanged himself, his body dropped onto the machinery.

However, this body was so badly burned that it was impossible to do little more than recognize that it was that of a mature human being.

BUILDINGS SET FIRE.

That the death of the five persons and the burning of the buildings was the result of premeditation and not an accident in any sense is attested by the fact that the granary, standing 50 or 75 feet southwest of the barn and 100 feet east of the residence was not burned, though it had been set on fire. A partition in the granary was badly charred, but not sufficiently to wipe out the evidence that kerosene had been used. An ordinary cork stopper, kerosene soaked, was also found in the granary, while lying close by

where the fire had been started were four matches, which had evidently been dropped there by the person starting the fire.

Another strange thing in connection with the case was the finding in the yard near the residence of 10 loaded shot gun cartridges, 12 gauge. They were fully loaded with powder and shot. They had been reloaded for it appeared that all of them had been used before.

It was claimed by some of the neighbors that Mr. Sternweis had never owned a gun and that the finding of these cartridges indicated the whole

family might have been murdered and the buildings fired by outside persons. Some credence to this idea was given when the statement of other neighbors was made that Mr. Sternweis had a safe in his house and that a time he had considerable sums of money there.

POSTPONES INQUEST.

Coroner Voelker stated, after returning to the city with the bodies that probably he would not hold an inquest for several days.

Before leaving the scene of the tragedy he appointed three men to guard the property until he returns there on Friday morning to make further investigation of the ruins after the fire has died out.

The stock, cows, hogs and horses of which there are a large number, will be looked after by neighbors temporarily, that they may not suffer for water or feed.

ENTIRE TOWN OF CARDIFF IS SOLD

Kankakee Capitalists Acquire
from Coal Company Prac-
tically Whole Village.

Kankakee, Ill., Aug. 22.—One of the largest deals negotiated in this vicinity in recent years was made public yesterday with the announcement that I. W. Powell, Kankakee photographer, and Fred G. Snow, farmer and capitalist, had purchased practically the entire town of Cardiff, a mining town located at the extreme west end of Kankakee county.

The purchase includes a total of over 85 buildings, including store, ice house, a big tower and 77 dwelling houses, and involves many thousands of dollars. The buildings are insured at the present time for \$24,000.

The purchase was made from the owners of the town, the Cardiff Coal company of Chicago, and work will be started in the immediate future by

Messrs. Powell and Snow in the removal of the entire lot of buildings to Kankakee, thereby practically removing the entire town from its present site and leaving an abandoned vicinity where once stood a prosperous little mining town.

The town was built by the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa railroad in 1909. At the same time the Cardiff mine was

sunk. It was operated for a few years and later abandoned on account of coal gas, which killed a number of miners, and whose bodies are still buried within the mine.

Big Tango Dance.

Exposition park Saturday and Sunday evening. Given by the Jolly Four club.—(Adv.)

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SUITS

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